reported to be located at Azad Market in Delhi. However, some shops in Azad Market area are reported to be selling disposed off articles/used uniforms of the army green colour for the last many years.

Vishakhapatnam and Ramagundam Thermal Power Projects

*245. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of private sector Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project and Ramagundam Thermal Power Project in the State of Andhra Pradesh:

(b) by when these project will start power generation; and

(c) how the power generated by these units will be utilized in the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPCL) has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on July 25, 1996 at an estimated completion cost of US$ 943.75 million + Rs. 1324.993 crores (@ 1 US$ = Rs. 35.00). Counter guarantee of Government of India has been issued to the project on August 19, 1998. The validity of the counter guarantee was extended on two occasions, up to February 18, 2000 and again up to August 18, 2000. The validity of the counter guarantee has not been extended beyond August 18, 2000. The promoters of the project have still not achieved financial closure and construction work on the project is yet to commence.

M/s. HNPCL have submitted the firm financial package to Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP)/Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation (APTRANSCO) in the first week of November 1999. The firms financial package is presently under examination of GoAP/APTRANSCO. GoAP have informed that they are negotiating a reduction of capital cost of the project as required under the revised procedure for extension of counter guarantee.

The Ramagundam Thermal Power Project (520 MW) being promoted by M/s. BPL Power Projects has been accorded techno-economic clearance of CEA on 26.6.1997 at an estimated completion cost of US$ 369.30 million + Rs. 1073.56 crores (@ 1 US$ = Rs.35.50). The amended and restated Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is awaiting statutory consent of Andhta Pradesh Electricty Regulatory Commission (APERC). The promoters of the project have still not achieved financial closure. Work relating to rehabilitation and resettlement of land oustees had been completed and some civil works relating to major building foundations for the Turbo Generator Building boiler and bunker and chimney foundations has been completed. The payment security mechanism for the project is being discussed between the APTRANSCO and Financial Institutions.

The Power generated from both the above projects will be fed into the State Grid.

Purchase of Hawk AJTs from Britain

*246. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any deal for purchase of 60 Hawk AJTs from Britain has been finalised;

(b) if so, at what cost;

(c) whether the cost has been disproportionately hiked;

(d) if so, what was the original cost and what is the purchase price thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the hike in price?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.